

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 13337 251044Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 TRSE-00 /064 W

-----049477 251923Z /47

R 250805Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4218

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13337

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: NEW HUMAN RIGHTS CASES PUBLICIZED BY CHURCH ACTIVITISTS

1. SUMMARY: CHURCH SOURCES HAVE PASSED INFORMATION TO EMBASSY REGARDING TWO NEW ALLEGED DETAINEE TORTURE CASES AND APPARENT SECRET ARREST OF EIGHT ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING U.P. LOS BANOS INSTRUCTOR. TORTURE CASES INVOLVE VILMA RIOPAY, A YOUNG VOLUNTEER CHURCH WORKER IN NEGROS WHO WAS ALLEGEDLY TORTURED IN CEBU AND RELEASED IN STATE OF "ACUTE PSYCHOTIC WITHDRAWAL," AND RESTITUTO DE LEON, A TONDO SLUM LEADER REPORTEDLY DETAINED FOR ELEVEN WEEKS AT CAMP CRAME AND NOW CONFINED IN MAXIMUM SECURITY WARD OF MENTAL HOSPITAL. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WAS VOLUNTEERED TO EMBOFF BY SISTER MARIANI DIMARANAN, CHAIR PERSON OF TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES (TFD) OF ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS OF THE PHILIPPINES (AMRSP).

3. VILMA RIOPAY, AGE 20, CHURCH CATECHIST IN KABANKALAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL. VILMA WAS ARRESTED AT HER HOME ON JULY 17 BY A GROUP OF MEN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WHO, ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, WERE LOOKING FOR TWO PEOPLE WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY SPENT THE NIGHT WITH HER FAMILY. THE LEADER WORE A  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 13337 251044Z

MASK, BUT THE FAMILY RECOGNIZED HIM AS A SGT. GEORGE PRESQUITO OF THE LOCAL PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY (PC) SECURITY UNIT. PRESQUITO WARNED THE FAMILY NOT TO REPORT VILMA'S ABDUCTION. IN FOLLOWING DAYS THE FAMILY AND CHURCH WORKERS WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE HER IN ANY DETENTION CENTER IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND THE PC PROVINCIAL COMMAND DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF HER WHEREABOUTS. ON JULY 20 DETAINEES

FROM KABANKALAN AT THE PC ZONE STOCKADE IN CEBU OBSERVED THAT VILMA WAS LODGED THERE OVERNIGHT. VILMA WAS NOT ALLOWED TO TALK WITH ANYONE AND WAS TAKEN AWAY THE FOLLOWING MORNING. CHURCH ACTIVITIES IN CEBU, AFTER TWO DAYS OF BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS, WERE TOLD BY A PC ZONE OFFICER THAT VILMA WAS IN CUSTODY BUT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED VISITORS. THE OFFICER SAID A PC PSYCHIATRIST WAS OBSERVING HER AND NEEDED TWO DAYS TO DETERMINE HER "SANITY." OFFICER NOTED THAT PV PROVINCIAL COMMANDER IN NEGROS DID NOT HAVE JURISDICTION OVER SECURITY UNIT WHICH ARRESTED HER. ON JULY 27 SHE WAS RELEASED TO HER FATHER AND WAS TAKEN OVERNIGHT TO THE REDEMPTRIST HOUSE IN CEBU. HER FATHER AND OTHERS BECAME ALARMED AT HER CONDITION AND HAD HER HOSPITALIZED ON JULY 28 AT CEBU DOCTORS HOSPITAL. THE ADMITTING OFFICER (AN AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT WELL KNOWN TO EMBOFF) ENTERED HER CONDITION ON THE CLINICAL RECORD AS "ACUTE PSYCHOTIC WITHDRAWAL SECOND TO PHYSICAL AND PSYCHIC TRAUMA; MULTIPLE BRUISES ALL EXTREMITIES, BUTTOCKS, CHEST." AFTER FIVE DAYS IN THE HOSPITAL UNDER CONSTANT CARE OF NUNS, VILMA WAS RELEASED AND RETURNED HOME. A LETTER TO PRESIDENT MARCOS FROM HER LAWYER AT THE LEGAL AID OFFICE OF THE BACOLOD DIOCESE, DATED AUGUST 10, AND NOW BEING CIRCULATED BY THE TFD, SAYS: "VILMA'S CONDITION WAS APPARENTLY THE RESULT OF HER ORDEAL AT THE HANDS OF HER CUSTODIANS. FROM THE FEW SNATCHES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH HER, VILMA'S ACCOUNT IS THAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 13337 251044Z

SHE WAS STRIPPED OF HER CLOTHES, HER MOST PRIVATE PARTS TOUCHED, MADE TO LIE ON A TABLE AND GIVEN THE WATER CURE SCOTCHED WITH RUM; ADMINISTERED DRUGS IN HER FOOD AND DRINK, AND KEPT AWAKE FOR DAYS ON END WHILE BEING SUBJECTED TO THE MOST SOPHISTICATED INTERROGATION."

4. RESTITUTO (RESTY) DE LEON, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF TONDO FORESHORE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, MANILA. AGE 46, MARRIED, TEN CHILDREN. DE LEON WAS ARRESTED MAY 10 AND DETAINED AT CAMP CRAME UNTIL JULY 29, APPARENTLY WITHOUT CHARGE. VISITORS NOTICED THAT "HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION HAS DETERIORATED AND HE WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY DISTRESSED." ON JULY 29 HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE PHILIPPINE MENTAL HOSPITAL, WARD 5, WHICH IS FOR "PATIENTS WITH VIOLENT TENDENCIES." ON AUGUST 3 HIS WIFE VISITED HIM AND FOUND HIM "IN A SMALL, SOLITARY CELL, LYING ON THE FLOOR, PALE AND VERY WEAK, AS IF HE HAD NOT EATEN FOR A LONG TIME." MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD HIS WIFE HE WILL BE RELEASED ONLY IF "HE COOPERATES WITH THE MILITARY."

5. EMBOFF WAS TOLD ORALLY BY SISTER MARIANI THAT EIGHT PERSONS WERE ARRESTED BETWEEN JULY 27 AND AUGUST 1 AT

LOS BANOS AND THEIR PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN. THE NAMES PROVIDED BY TFD ARE: JESSICA SALES, INSTRUCTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, LOS BANOS; ORDIANA VILLABER AND GERARDO FAUSTINO, BOTH UPLB STUDENTS; CHRISTINA CATTALA; BONG SISON; RIZALINA ILAGAN; ERWIN DELA TORRE; AND RAMON JASUL. TWO OF THEM, SISON AND FAUSTINO, AS KNOWN TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIVE IN THE CLERGY.

6. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY CANNOT VERIFY THESE REPORTS, BUT THEY ARE TRANSMITTED IN THE EVENT INQUIRIES ARE RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT. CHURCH ACTIVISTS ARE DISTRIBUTING MIMEOGRAPHED CASE HISTORIES TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS. EMBASSY AND CEBU CONSUL WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY REGARDING VILMA RIOPAY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANILA 13337 251044Z

CASE, IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

7. COPIES OF TFD HANDOUTS ON RIOPAY AND DE LEON BEING POUCHED TO EA/PHL.  
STULL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, DETENTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MANILA13337  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770307-0978  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MANILA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770824/aaaaatup.tel  
**Line Count:** 141  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 6e667053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1488393  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW HUMAN RIGHTS CASES PUBLICIZED BY CHURCH ACTIVITISTS  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINS, RP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6e667053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009